

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application as amended. Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-16 and 21-23 are pending. Withdrawn claims 17 to 20 were canceled to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 6 and 10 have been canceled, and new claims 21, 22 and 23 comprise the subject matter of the canceled claims re-written in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Objection to Drawings

Figures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 were objected to for including German-language legends. Replacement drawing sheets for these Figures are submitted to obviate the objection.

Formal Rejections

Claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner points out inconsistencies in the text of these claims. Applicant has canceled claims 5, 6 and 10 and re-written them in independent form to obviate the rejections. Applicant also has amended claims 7, 12, 13 and 14 for improved clarity. The pending claims as amended are believed sufficiently definite and should be allowed.

Obviousness Double-Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-16 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double-patenting as being obvious over claims 1-37 of co-pending application No. 11/161,235 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,886,639 (Pasternak). Applicant thanks the Examiner for advising Applicant that the co-pending application may have claims that overlap with the claims of the present application. Pursuant to MPEP 804-IB, Applicant requests that this pending application be allowed to issue as a patent without filing a terminal disclaimer. The present application has a filing date that is earlier than co-pending application No. 11/161,235, so the co-pending application is not prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 8, 11, 15 and 16 were indicated as being allowable, and claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-14 were indicated as being allowable if re-written. Applicant thus believes all pending claims are now in condition to be allowed.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 12982-00005-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

Replacement Drawing Sheets